

# Popular Annual Financial Report

## Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016



Bernalillo County  
New Mexico





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## Publication

The 2016 Popular Annual Financial Report is published by the Bernalillo County Accounting Section

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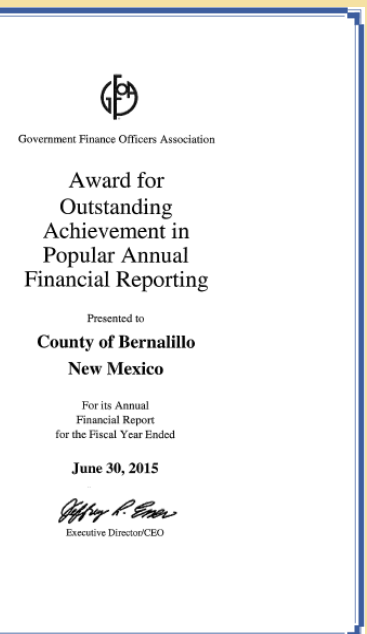
## About this report:

This report is largely based on the county's 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR); however, this report is not prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Only the financial data for the general government is included in this report and, therefore, the county's business-type activities are excluded. Additionally, information is presented in a summarized manner and certain financial statements and note disclosures required by GAAP are omitted. A copy of the county's audited 2016 CAFR, which is prepared in accordance with GAAP, is located at <http://www.bernco.gov/finance/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports-cafr.aspx>

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Bernalillo County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. This is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. This was Bernalillo County's fourth award. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements and we are submitting it to GFOA.





Residents of Bernalillo County:

We are pleased to present the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year 2016. In today's complex world of financial reporting, analyzing financial statements can be a challenge, especially for those without accounting backgrounds. The PAFR is intended to address that issue by providing an easy to read version of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial report (CAFR) designed to provide residents with an overview of the county's revenues, expenditures and other general information. Though the PAFR is not audited, its financial content is derived from the county's audited CAFR. The CAFR for this fiscal year was audited by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP and received an unmodified (clean) opinion.

Bernalillo County has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for twelve consecutive years, and received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for fiscal years ended June 30, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015. A PAFR was not prepared for fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.



The financial condition of the county is strong as reflected by the county's current bond ratings. The county's 2016 general obligation bonds were rated "AAA" by the nation's three top rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch Ratings. Achieving these exceptional financial ratings has a direct correlation to the county's ability to attain low interest rates on projects that we undertake. The county continues its effort to incorporate comprehensive financial planning in its long-range vision in order to remain solvent during the gradual economic recovery. In addition to the three-twelfths reserve requirement, required by the State of New Mexico, of \$71.4 million, the county's long-term financial plan includes maintaining adequate reserves to accommodate the county's future cash flow needs and any unforeseen emergency contingency concerns in its fund balance consisting of an unassigned amount of \$14.4 million, referred to as the Revenue Stabilization/Operating Reserve. Bernalillo County's reserve of 30 percent of our operating expenditures in the general fund is in line with industry best practices.

We continue to be focused and committed to being better every day for those we serve, our communities and to each other. In fiscal year 2016, \$125.3 million was invested in eight projects that created 475 new jobs in Bernalillo County. The eight projects included companies specializing in cyber security, food manufacturing, hotel management, food and beverage, and non-profit healthcare. This undertaking is in direct support of the economic vitality goal in the county's strategic plan. In February 2015, the Board of County Commissioners approved the enactment of a one-eighth Hold Harmless Gross Receipts Tax, which will generate approximately \$20.0 million annually, to fund the behavioral health initiative in Bernalillo County. A commission made up of Bernalillo County and City of Albuquerque appointees are evaluating and recommending how behavioral health funding will be spent in crisis services, prevention, intervention and harm reduction, supportive housing, and community supports.

Bernalillo County continues its commitment to provide efficient, effective and transparent services to improve the lives of our citizens. It is critical that the county strive to earn the public's trust and confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie M. Baca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Baca" clearly legible.

Julie M. Baca  
County Manager

# Board of County Commissioners



L to R: Lonnie C. Talbert, District 4; Debbie O'Malley, District 1; Maggie Hart Stebbins, District 3; Art De La Cruz, Chair, District 2; Wayne A. Johnson, District 5, Vice Chair

## County Government

The division of counties in New Mexico can be traced back to the time of Mexican rule. The first subdivision of the New Mexico Territory was made in 1837 when two "partidos" or districts were created. In 1844, New Mexico was re-divided into three districts. Eventually, these districts were further subdivided into areas that included boundaries similar to today's counties. One interesting note is that the first Bernalillo County boundaries were much larger than today's divisions.

When New Mexico entered the union in 1912, the New Mexico Constitution vested the law-making power of the state in the legislature. Bernalillo County derives its authority from the state constitution. Counties are subject to the will of the legislature, modified only by the state constitution, the courts, and the legislative process.

The county has a commission-manager form of government in which most of the day-to-day administrative duties are delegated to the county manager. All legislative power within the county is vested in a five-member board of commissioners, each of whom is elected to four-year terms from single member districts, with a two-term limit. The executive functions are divided; the powers are shared by the board and five elected county officials: the assessor, county clerk, probate judge, sheriff and treasurer.

**Julie M. Baca**  
County Manager

### Elected Officials

**Tanya R. Giddings**  
Assessor

**Maggie Toulouse Oliver**  
County Clerk

**Willow Misty Parks**  
Probate Judge

**Manuel Gonzalez III**  
Sheriff

**Manny Ortiz**  
Treasurer



# Local Economy

Bernalillo County population 2016	675,551
Percent of state's population	32%
Percent of Albuquerque MSA population	75%
City of Albuquerque's	
population as percent of county's	83%
Unemployment rate 2016-county	5.90%
National unemployment rate -2016	5.00%
Forecast of jobs added in Albuquerque MSA from 2012-2022	56,724
Forecast of jobs added in State of NM from 2012-2022	101,612

ranked 76th in the “Cost of Doing Business” category and 188th in the “Job Growth Expected” category.

Numbers from the University of New Mexico’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research show that the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) gained 6,500 jobs in the 4th quarter of 2015 and that 37% of all jobs in New Mexico are expected to be in the health care and social assistance fields.

Bernalillo County, with the City of Albuquerque making up 82 percent of its population, serves as a hub for commerce and industry in the Southwest. It accounts for nearly half of all economic activity in New Mexico. Its success can be attributed to a diverse economic base consisting of government, services, trade, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and research and development. In the 2016 Forbes List of “Best Places for Business and Careers,” Albuquerque placed 138th out of the 200 ranked metro areas in the country and was

	2016	2015
Full-time equivalent employees	2,524	2,488
<b>Public Safety</b>		
Sheriff's stations	4	4
Fire stations	12	12
911 calls	74,979	77,328
Fire department calls answered	17,886	16,288
Total Metropolitan Detention Center bookings	24,817	28,604
<b>Public Works</b>		
Residential building permits	942	593
Commerical building permits	148	121
Refuse collected in tons	39,793	47,433

# County Debt

On June 30, 2016 the county’s outstanding debt totaled \$234 million, excluding compensated absences, premiums, discounts and other liabilities.

General obligation bonds are direct obligations of the county for which its full faith and credit are pledged and are repaid from taxes levied on property located within the county. The county issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities, as well as the purchase of library books. The balance of \$122.7 million represents 52 percent of the county’s outstanding debt.

Gross receipts tax revenue bonds are limited obligations of the county, repaid solely from gross receipts tax revenues. These bonds are used for the acquisition and construction of major capital projects. The balance of \$111.3 million represents 48 percent of the county’s outstanding debt.

Credit Ratings Maintained by the County		
	General Obligation Bonds	Revenue Bonds
Moody's Investors Services, Inc.	Aaa	Aa2
Standard & Poor's Rating Service	AAA	AAA
Fitch Agency	AAA	AA+



# Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position represents governmental activities (excluding business type activities). This statement provides information on all of the county's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position.

Below are the three components of net position and their respective fiscal year 2016 ending balances for governmental activities:

## Net investment in capital assets

This component of net position represents the amount that is unavailable for reducing debt or paying for services because it is the value of the capital assets themselves (e.g., infrastructure, land, buildings, machinery, and equipment), not liquid like cash or equivalents that could be used to pay bills. The county uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens. Although the county's net investment in capital assets is net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.



## Statement of Net Position (in thousands) Governmental Activities

	Fiscal Years		
	2016	2015	Change
<b>Assets:</b>			
Current and other assets	\$ 321,100	\$ 300,407	\$ 20,693
Capital assets	553,735	564,074	(10,339)
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>874,835</b>	<b>864,481</b>	<b>10,354</b>
Deferred outflows of resources	24,179	27,788	(3,609)
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Long-term liabilities	483,578	421,081	62,497
Other liabilities	34,160	64,419	(30,259)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>517,738</b>	<b>485,500</b>	<b>32,238</b>
Deferred inflows of resources	7,624	54,267	(46,643)
<b>Net Position:</b>			
Net invested in capital assets	343,341	327,948	15,393
Restricted	196,844	169,754	27,090
Unrestricted	(166,533)	(145,200)	(21,333)
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 373,652</b>	<b>\$ 352,502</b>	<b>\$ 21,150</b>

The balance of \$343.3 million represents this portion of the county's total net position.

## Restricted net position

This component of net position represents the amount that is available for use only as allowed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments, and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted net position in the amount of \$196.8 million represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used.

## Unrestricted net position

This component of the county's net position is the amount that is available and may be used to meet the county's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. In fiscal year 2015, GASB no. 68 was a new reporting requirement established by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) that required all governments to report their net pension liability. This had a significant negative effect on the county's net position, and consequently unrestricted net position as of June 30, 2015. GASB Statement No. 82 amended GASB Statement No. 68 and again caused further restatements.

# Statement of Activities

The Statement of Activities represents governmental activities (excluding business type activities). The statement provides a general understanding of how available resources are used to provide services. These sources of funds are categorized into two forms of revenue: Program revenues are derived directly from county programs or from outside the county, and general revenues are primarily raised through property taxes, gross receipt taxes and other revenues not reported as program revenues. Once the county collects taxes and other revenues, the monies must be spent efficiently to provide services to the citizens and businesses of the county.

**Operating grants** are funds provided from state, federal, or other governments and private contributions used to fund operational expenditures of programs such as health and welfare, emergency management, parks, public safety and other such programs. The county received \$31.5 million in operating grants and contributions revenue during fiscal year 2016.

**Capital grants** are funds provided from state, federal, or other governments and private contributions used to fund capital improvements such as roads, buildings, parks, and open space. The county received \$5.7 million in capital grants and contributions revenue during fiscal year 2016.

As of June 30, 2016, the county's revenues totaled \$372.0 million, an increase of \$35.7 million from the previous year. The increase was primarily attributed to an increase in Gross Receipts Tax (GRT). The county imposed two of the three-eighths hold harmless GRT. One-eight would be used for behavioral and mental health needs of the county and the other one-eight would be used for general operations. The increase was offset by the revenue reduction from the state's phase out of the hold harmless deduction for food and medical, and the county's repeal of the one-sixteenth GRT for general operating expenses.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, the county expended \$340.1 million, an increase of \$1.1 million from the previous year. In both years the county made an effort to cut back on salaries, find operational savings, eliminate all nonessential costs as it continues its countywide cost savings initiative.

## Statement of Activities (in thousands) Governmental Activities

	Fiscal Years	
Revenues (by sources)	2016	2015
<b>Program Revenues:</b>		
Operating grants and contributions	\$ 31,454	\$ 28,786
Capital grants and contributions	5,738	9,649
Charges for services	15,799	16,118
<b>General Revenues:</b>		
Property taxes	146,096	142,069
Gross receipts taxes	160,456	128,401
Other taxes	5,569	5,347
Investment income	1,562	1,477
Net decrease in the fair market value of investments	-	-
Other	5,409	4,630
Transfers	(65)	(119)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>372,018</b>	<b>336,358</b>
<b>Expenses (by function):</b>		
Public safety	157,302	155,607
General government	63,472	62,160
Public works	44,872	50,305
Health and welfare	48,206	44,989
Culture and recreation	16,408	15,429
Interest on long-term debt	9,865	10,551
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>340,125</b>	<b>339,041</b>
Change in net position	31,893	(2,683)
Net position beginning	352,502	549,897
Prior period restatement	(10,743)	(194,712)
<b>Net position beginning of year as restated</b>	<b>341,759</b>	<b>355,185</b>
<b>Net position end of year</b>	<b>\$ 373,652</b>	<b>\$ 352,502</b>

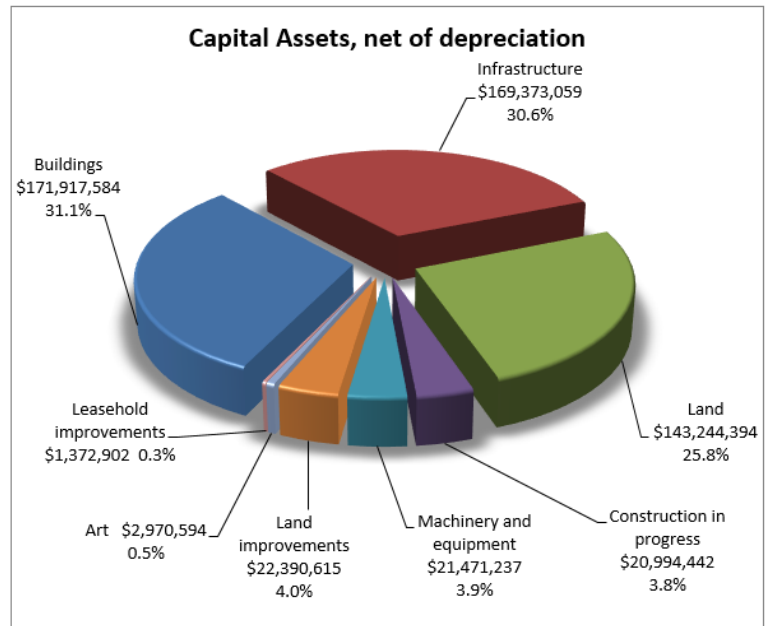
Readers wanting more detailed financial information should refer to the county's FY 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) available at the Accounting Department's website at <http://www.bernco.gov/finance/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports-cafr.aspx>

# Capital Assets

The county's cumulative investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of June 30, 2016 amounts to \$553.7 million (net of accumulated depreciation). This represents the value of the county's land, buildings, improvements, machinery and equipment, construction in progress, art, and infrastructure.

Major project expenditures in in fiscal year 2016 include:

- Vista del Rio Drainage Project - \$5.1 million
- Arenal Storm Drain Project - \$2.6 million
- Mid-North Valley Recreation Complex - \$1.9 million
- Arenal Open Space property acquisition - \$1.2 million



## Property Taxes

The county is responsible for assessing, collecting and distributing property taxes for various governmental entities located in Bernalillo County including itself. The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) sets the tax rates each year by Sept. 1. The county commission subsequently certifies the tax rates and a written order imposing the tax rates is then delivered to the county assessor.

### Where were your property tax dollars distributed?



The tax year begins on Nov. 1 and ends on Oct. 31. Bernalillo County property tax revenue increased \$4.0 million from \$142.1 million in fiscal year 2015 to \$146.1 million in fiscal year 2016, a 2.8 percent increase. The increase was attributed to an increase in the net taxable value of property located in Bernalillo County, coupled with the enactment of a new open space mill levy.

Property tax revenues are anticipated to make up 52 percent of general fund revenue in fiscal year 2017 and are projected to increase by 2 percent in fiscal year 2018.

Even in these uncertain economic times, the county has been a conscientious steward of tax revenue by maintaining sufficient reserve funds and being conservative in revenue projections.



# Community

## Bernalillo County Commission Approves Funding for Behavioral Health Initiatives

In 2015 the Bernalillo County Commission approved new funding for expanding access to behavioral health services to create a comprehensive



behavioral health system in Bernalillo County. Funding comes from the Bernalillo County behavioral health tax that generates approximately \$20 million a year. In 2016, the commission funded several priority projects including:

**Reduction of Adverse Childhood Experiences Project: \$3 million per year:** Funding to develop and expand resources for at-risk children and their families including identification, early intervention, support, treatment and services in their homes and communities.

**Community Engagement Team: \$1 million per year:** Community Engagement Teams will provide individualized, recovery-focused approaches to individuals identified with a mental illness.

**Community Connections:** Safe secure housing with supportive services for homeless individual living with mental illness or substance use disorders.

**University of New Mexico's Institute for Social Research (UNM/ISR) Contract, \$246,553 per year:** UNM/ISR will measure the effectiveness of new behavioral health programs and offer advice on how to improve performance through data analysis and evaluation.

**Youth Transitional Living Proposal: \$650,000 per year:** The program will serve at-risk youth with mental health or an addiction diagnosis who are precariously housed or homeless.

## New Bernalillo County Charter

Bernalillo County voters have formally established more independence for our county government by approving a new constitution for the county.

The county's Home Rule Urban County Charter creates a framework and basic rules for how county government is organized. The document strengthens transparency, accountability and local control for local government.

Seven community volunteers were appointed to the Urban County Charter Commission. The committee met throughout 2016 to write the new document. The draft was approved by



the Bernalillo County Commission in August, and the committee joined commissioners and county staff to present the document to 20 neighborhood and community groups throughout the community.

The charter strengthens open government, ethics and compliance efforts; increases the efficiency of the county's purchasing processes; strengthens the county manager's ability to serve as chief executive of the county; and, establishes a strong merit system for county employees.

Notably, the charter would strengthen the county's investment policies with more protections for taxpayers. Any amendments to the charter would also have to be approved by voters. The charter was approved decisively in the November 2016 general election.

## Commissioner Johnson Acknowledges County Employees for Work on Dog Head Fire



On Tuesday afternoon, June 14, 2016, the Dog Head Fire started in the Manzano Mountains and by the end of the day, 682 acres had burned. With no containment, the fire was moving in a northeast direction. By Wednesday, June 15, 2016 the fire spread northeast and had grown to a size of 2,000 acres. In response, Bernalillo County activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A mandatory evacuation order was issued for the residents living south of Highway 217 in Bernalillo County, which included the communities of Chilili and Escobosa. The Los Vecinos Community Center was opened to house displaced residents, including their pets and livestock. Governor Susana Martinez declared a state of emergency and the National Guard was placed on standby. During the evening of June 15, the fire grew to over 5,000 acres. The EOC became operational and was staffed by Emergency Support Function (ESF) personnel; firefighting, emergency management, mass care, law enforcement, external requests, and public information.

On Thursday, June 16, 2016 the Dog Head Fire had grown to approximately 16,000 acres, the EOC became fully functional with the addition of ESF personnel; logistics management and resource support, and the National Guard (Army/Air Force). The EOC was staffed for 7 straight days, 24 hours a day, by hardworking, dedicated and extremely competent Bernalillo County staff who provided resources in support of activities required to protect the health and safety of East Mountain residents including, structure protection, public safety, temporary housing for residents and pets, collection and distribution of donations, coordination efforts between all organizations and distribution of current and meaningful information. All county departments worked as a team and every employee performed in an exemplary manner, including those staff members who continued to provide services to county residents while resources were directed to the Dog Head Fire. At the June 28, 2016 meeting, the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners honored the employees who provided critical support of the county's response to the Dog Head Fire and declared Wednesday, August 17, 2016 as "Bernalillo County Dog Head Appreciation Day."

# Community (cont.)

## Bernalillo County Commissioner Art De La Cruz Promotes Reading

Commissioner De La Cruz has always recognized the importance of literacy, especially for children and its impact on our community. During his tenure as the County Commissioner in District 2 and through his position as the former Director of the Parks and Recreation he has made children's literacy efforts a priority. He has a strong-belief in children's access to learning and books, which is why he created the Children's Book Holiday. During his 2-terms he provided children with a book of their choosing so that they could take it home during the school's winter break. His purpose was to provide students from his district, grades Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade the opportunity to choose their own, "free" book. Over the last eight years he hosted 11 events throughout his District 2 community centers and schools including, West Side, Alamosa, Herman Sanchez, Barelvas, and Thomas Bell, Community Centers; and Isleta Pueblo, Adobe Acres, Valle Vista, and Georgia I. Sanchez Elementary Schools. His long-time belief is that when students have books that interest them, they will be better engaged and more committed to learning by practicing and improving their reading skills. This year's special guest and local television celebrity, Marisa Maez of KOAT will help host the students and impart the importance of literacy and how it affects their lives. Other invited guests include the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department (BCSO), Albuquerque Police Department's (APD's) Literacy team, and the Bernalillo County Fire Marshal's, as well as the Bernalillo County Manger's Office, and other volunteer administrators and staff to be on hand to interact with the student's and support the event. The



Book Fiesta will commence with the, *Presentation of the Colors* by the Atrisco Heritage Academy High School with the organized student book selection and literacy drawing with prize give-away's as part of the fun. Also joining Commissioner De La Cruz and his important guests will be several engaged mascots: "Puddles" from the Valle de Oro Refuge; Smokey Bear" from the National Forest Service, "Buddy the Bison" representing the, National Park Service and "Otto the Otter" the Bureau of Reclamation's representative. McDonalds will sponsor food for each student and Admiral Beverage will provide soft drinks and water. Fruit, cotton candy and popcorn will also be given.

### Innovate ABQ



On March 29, 2016, the first phase of Innovate ABQ building plans were announced by Commissioner Talbert. Albuquerque is doing something audacious; it is building a

rainforest in the middle of a desert. However, instead of millions of plant and animal species, this rainforest will be a place for researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs to thrive. It is an ecosystem for innovation: a place where Albuquerque can grow its own talent. Reflecting on the writing of author Victor W. Hwang (2012), the goal is not to script the creation and evolution of new ideas, but rather to create a rich and flexible environment that allows innovation to be born and thrive in unpredictable ways. This concept is founded on principles of trust, collaboration, and experimentation. The University of New Mexico (UNM) has made a commitment to support economic development activities in the City of Albuquerque and throughout Bernalillo County. One way it is accomplishing this is through new partnerships aimed at building a district for research and innovation within the city. UNM has a proven track record of commercializing research activities, but by focusing its energy in partnership with the City, County and other organizations, the University is aiming to help ignite a more vigorous local and regional economy. Such a district will help retain students and researchers in Albuquerque well beyond their tenure at UNM and facilitate the creation of new businesses and jobs. In turn, a flourishing city with improved innovation-based employment opportunities will help attract a new generation of high-caliber students, faculty, researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. Innovate ABQ is a core site that is a catalyst for this district. Founded on a seven-acre former First Baptist Church site purchased by UNM in 2014, it is envisioned as a hub for research and innovation activities and programs throughout the region.

## Bernalillo County Fire Station Has Quicker Access to Paseo del Norte Blvd., Decreasing Response Travel Times

Commissioner Lonnie C. Talbert, along with State Representative William Rehm and Fire Division Chief Brian Kadle, today cut the ribbon on the new access road to Paseo del Norte that will provide a significant reduction in travel time for fire personnel who respond to fires and other emergencies. The new road and gate access allows firefighters to get to a fire or medical emergency 44 seconds faster for westbound calls and 21 seconds faster for eastbound calls. Previously, fire engines had to travel a little out of the way to get to Paseo del Norte.

*"The new direct access to Paseo del Norte Boulevard is vital to the county's commitment to the safety of our community," says Commissioner Lonnie Talbert. "But equally as important, is the community's understanding of how this new system works."*

The new gate access system is automatically activated when county fire personnel respond to an emergency. The new system coordinates the flashing lights at the new gate access with the traffic lights at both Paseo del Norte Boulevard intersections at Lowell and Browning Streets. The intersection traffic lights will turn red in all four directions, stopping traffic along Paseo del Norte Boulevard. The vehicles that are caught in between those intersections should immediately pull over to the right to clear the boulevard for the fire engine.





# Community (cont.)



## Bernalillo County Joins White House Data-Driven Justice Initiative

Bernalillo County is joining forces with the White House and

local governments across the country to better manage jail populations through data-driven strategies. Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins was invited to the White House to participate in a facilitated meeting as part of this effort.

President Obama's administration announced the Data-Driven Justice Initiative June 30, 2016, which includes a bipartisan coalition of 67 city, county and state governments working to reform jails and prisons on two fronts:

- Diverting low-risk offenders with mental illness out of the criminal justice system; and
- Reforming pre-trial incarceration so that low-risk offenders no longer stay in jail simply because they can't afford a bond.

Bernalillo County leaders have made significant progress on these fronts. These strategies have helped reduce the jail population at the Metropolitan Detention Center, and contributed to the recently-approved settlement agreement approved by a federal judge in a class action lawsuit over conditions at the jail. The county is continuing to analyze why and how often people are booked into jail, in an effort to better manage scarce tax dollars.

## Commissioner Wayne Johnson lead a 10-day trade mission to Israel in October 2015

Meetings were held with US-Israel business research and development companies, technology companies and local business entrepreneurs. The Trade Mission was also able to meet with representatives of the Weizmann Institute of Science. The Institute is the leader in converting research technology into commercial applications.



Commissioner Johnson also traveled to the Ramat HaNegev region of Israel. It is an arid region that is on the leading edge of Agro research. Agricultural management practices have been developed to improve the yield and quality of crops in arid regions. These include techniques for cost-effective

water conservation and erosion control, planting, crop rotation, harvesting and food processing. New Mexico and Ramat HaNegev have many geographical, water and climate issues in common.

As a result of the Trade Mission, the Mayor of the Ramat HaNegev Regional Council led a delegation to Albuquerque to meet with Bernalillo County officials to further discuss strategies and gather additional information regarding common issues and problems faced by both governments. Preliminary plans were also made for an Israel New Mexico Business Summit to be held in the fall of 2016 in Albuquerque. *"Successful business ventures are based on relationships. Our Trade Mission reinforced connections previously made and helped to foster new associations which continue to be productive"* Johnson stated. *"Business opportunities are thriving in Israel and they are excited about expanding their opportunities to New Mexico."*

## The South Valley Community Celebrates the Grand Reopening of Their Swimming Pool

Commissioner Art De La Cruz accompanied by Senator Michael Padilla and Representative Pat Ruiloba collaborated on the project's renovation. They greeted thankful constituents who expressed their elation with the outcome of the pool's improvements on Saturday June, 18. The South Valley lap pool saw total renovations; the bath house, mechanical room and kiddy pool also saw improvements that completed Parks & Rec.'s South Valley Pool Master Plan, Phase 1. The South Valley pool is located at 3912 Isleta Boulevard SW. During the event, members of the public were offered free admission and treated to music, and giveaways. There was fun for the whole family and the young, and not so young. *"By working together with our state legislators, we were able to invest over \$800,000 in much needed improvements to the South Valley Pool and its facilities,"* says Commission Chair Art De La Cruz. *"We are happy and proud to reopen this pool which brings back a long-standing summer swimming tradition for our families and their children."*



## Fighting Homelessness in Bernalillo County. One Tiny Home at a Time



## Tiny Homes Fight Homelessness

Commissioner Debbie O'Malley has joined forces with Albuquerque City Councilor Diane Gibson and community leaders

to spark the tiny home movement in Bernalillo County.

Commissioner O'Malley advocates for the planning and development of a tiny home village public housing concept to fight homelessness in our community.

A tiny home village would provide stable housing to chronically homeless individuals while they take advantage of social services to help them back to self-sufficiency. People looking for work and a chance to stabilize their lives are targeted for this program.

The village would include a common building with bathrooms, food preparation and cooking areas, and meeting rooms. The tiny houses are 120 square feet and would cost about \$5,000 each to build.

Voters approved \$2 million for this public housing model in the November 2016 general election.



**Visit Bernalillo County's official website  
[www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov)**

The county's website is your source for information about county policies, services and events. You can also find information on employment opportunities, community events, Board of County Commissioners agendas, meeting schedules, tax information, operating hours, and much more.

Our mailing address is:

**Bernalillo County  
One Civic Plaza NW - 10th Floor  
Albuquerque, NM 87102**

**(505) 468-7000**

For more information on Bernalillo County financial matters visit the Finance Division website at:

**<http://www.bernco.gov/finance/default.aspx>**